

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 CAIRO 14580 081623Z
ACTION HEW-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 OES-07 AID-05 AGRE-00 COME-00
EB-08 /038 W

-----116641 091330Z /64

R 081336Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0073
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

UNCLAS CAIRO 14580

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: FISHMEAL WITH POSSIBLE CONTAMINANTS

REF: STATE 139970

1. EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVE VISITED GENERAL POULTRY CO. JUNE 7 AND DISCUSSED FISHMEAL QUESTION WITH MR. SALAH EL MAHDI, CHAIRMAN OF FIRM. EL MAHDI NOTED THAT GOE OFFICIALS, CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE CONTAMINATION OF SHIPMENT, HAD INITIALLY PREVENTED VESSEL CARRYING FISHMEAL FROM UNLOADING. SUBSEQUENT TESTS BY MINISTRY OF HEALTH OFFICIALS (APPARENTLY COMPLETED LAST WEEK) HAD INDICATED THAT LEVEL OF PCB'S WAS BELOW DANGER POINT, BUT HSIP HAD MEANWHILE LOST ITS TURN AT ALEXANDRIA DOCKS. EL MAHDI TOLD EMBASY REP. HE INTENDED GIVE IMMEDIATE INSTRUCTIONS TO HAVE SHIP DOCK AND UNLOAD.

2. DESPITE NEGATIVE RESULTS OF TESTS, EL MAHDI SAID GOE OFFICIALS STILL HAD SOME CONCERN ABOUT REPRESENTATIVE NATURE OF SAMPLE. INSTRUCTIONS WOULD THEREFORE BE GIVEN FOR FISHMEAL TO BE PLACED IN SEVERAL DIFFERENT STACKS, FROM WHICH ADDITIONAL SAMPLES WOULD BE TAKEN. EL MAHDI DID NOT INDICATE HOW LONG IT WAS LIKELY TO BE
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BEFORE SHIP ACTUALLY DOCKED AND UNLOADED.

3. EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVE INFORMED EL MAHDI OF CONTENTS OF REF. C, BUT REFRAINED FROM GIVING HIM COPY OF MESSAGE, BECAUSE REP. WAS CONCERNED THAT DATES SHOWN, WHICH APPEAR INDICATE THAT LABORATORY CERTIFICATE WAS ISSUED PRIOR TO DATE OF TEST, MIGHT PROVE CONFUSING.

4. PRIOR TO VISIT OF EMBASSY REP. TO GENERAL POULTRY CO.,
SCIATT HAD RAISED QUESTION OF FISHMEAL CASE WITH MINISTRY
OF HEALTH UNDERSECRETARY FOR PREVENTIVE MEDICINE, TO WHOM
COPY OF MESSAGE WITH ORIGINAL FDA NOTICE OF POSSIBLE
CONTAMINATION HAD BEEN SENT. WHEN ASKED BY SCIATT ABOUT
STATUS OF CASE, OFFICIAL WAS COMPLETELY UNRESPONSIVE,
AND REFUSED BE DRAW OUT ON MATTER. EILTS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Draft Date: 08 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780683/aaaactar.tel
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